like this plan and told our allies that we should try to get the blanks in a more honest way, by straight counterfeiting.

Through workers in print shops, the party had connections with all the large printing firms. It did not take long to locate the shop in which the official blanks were printed, and we soon had a complete set of ballots identical with those used by the registered groups. Next, a municipal official close to the Council of the Unemployed volunteered to lend us the municipal seal for a night. Electrolytic replicas of the seal were made in no time. Two days later I showed our allies the blanks. They found them wonderful.

After the elections, the Attorney General ordered an investigation. A committee of experts appointed to find out how the left bloc got the ballots came to the conclusion that the blanks conformed to the law.

The elections to the Second Duma revealed a shift to the left among the voters. If the Duma had been elected in a more or less democratic way, it would have had a leftist majority of 75 to 80 per cent, and a minority opposition consisting mainly of moderate Laborites and Cadets. Not a single candidate right of the Cadets would have been elected. However, the distribution of the electors among different classes of voters cut down the strength of the left and enabled the extreme right to drag their representatives into the Duma. The leftists' victory in the popular vote gave them no comfort. The country remained in the iron grip of the government, which maintained order with the aid of field-martial courts that issued from one to two hundred death sentences a month.

THE SECOND DUMA

The new Duma convened on February 20, 1907. Its inauguration gave an opportunity for demonstrations around its meeting place, the Tauride Palace. Crowds cheered peasant and worker delegates, booed down those who looked like substantial citizens. The police permitted factory meetings of workers with the S-D deputies. The speakers were very cautious, however, and left the audiences disappointed and bored.

Almost immediately after the inauguration it became clear that, in contrast to the First Duma, the Second Duma had no working majority. The strength of the Cadets had been reduced to ninety-nine seats as compared with roughly double that number in the First Duma. The Octobrists and Monarchists together had seventy-nine seats. The Social Democrats and Laborites together had 222 seats

